

Remarks

The above Amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the Office Action mailed July 21, 2008.

I. Summary of Examiner's Rejections

Prior to the Office Action mailed July 21, 2008, Claims 1-2, 4-8, 25-30, and 32-37 were pending in the Application. In the Office Action, Claims 1-2, 4-8, 25-30, and 32-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Huben et al., (U.S. Patent No. 6,327,594, hereafter Van Huben) in view of Sim et al., (U.S. Patent No. 6,857,012, hereafter Sim).

II. Summary of Applicants' Amendments

The present Response amends Claim 1 and 25, leaving for the Examiner's present consideration Claims 1-2, 4-8, 25-30, and 32-37. Reconsideration of the Application, as amended, is respectfully requested. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to prosecute any originally presented or canceled claims in a continuing or future application.

III. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In the Office Action mailed July 21, 2008, Claims 1-2, 4-8, 25-30, and 32-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Huben in view of Sim.

Claim 1

Claim 1 has been amended by the present Response to more clearly define the embodiment of the invention therein. As amended, Claim 1 defines:

1. *(Currently Amended) A storage medium for storing data for access by an application program being executed on a computer system, comprising:
a data structure stored in said storage medium, wherein the data structure is stored in a content repository that is logically part of a virtual content repository (VCR), the data structure including or referring to:
a name;
a content repository identifier;
a property;*

a schema including a property definition defining the property, wherein the schema is inheritable by a child data structure in the VCR to define a property of the child data structure;

a path that uniquely specifies the data structure's location in the VCR; and

a reference to a parent data structure in the VCR that enables traversal of the VCR;

wherein the VCR logically represents, using an application program interface (API), a plurality of content repositories, including the content repository, as a single content repository encompassing the plurality of content repositories from the application program's standpoint;

wherein each content repository in the plurality of content repositories implements a service provider interface (SPI) including a set of interfaces and services to plug the plurality of content repositories into the VCR; and

wherein the API and the SPI share a content model that represents content of the plurality of content repositories as a hierarchical namespace of nodes.

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define the embodiment as comprising a data structure stored in said storage medium, wherein the data structure is logically part of a VCR, the data structure including or referring to a schema including a property definition defining the property, wherein the schema is inheritable by a child data structure in the VCR to define a property of the child data structure. Furthermore, each content repository in the plurality of content repositories implements a service provider interface (SPI) including a set of interfaces and services to plug the plurality of content repositories into the VCR. Applicants respectfully submit that these features are not disclosed by the cited references.

In response to the Office Action's assertion that Van Huben teaches that the plurality of content repositories plug into a VCR via an SPI and wherein the API and the SPI share a content model, Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define the role of an SPI in the embodiment defined by Claim 1. As amended, Claim 1 specifies that *each content repository in the plurality of content repositories implements a service provider interface (SPI) including a set of interfaces and services to plug the plurality of content repositories into the VCR*, which is not taught in Van Huben. While Van Huben teaches the use of a client/server interface that controls access to a data repository (col. 17, lines 51-53) and can establish connections with the server

where the data repository reside, Van Huben does not mention an SPI that is implemented by each of the data repositories. Thus, Van Huben does not disclose that *each content repository in the plurality of content repositories implements a SPI including a set of interfaces and services to plug the plurality of content repositories into the VCR.*

Furthermore, Van Huben does not disclose a schema that is inheritable by a child data structure because Van Huben does not show any schemas nor does Van Huben show any inheritance by a child data structure. Although Van Huben teaches that Packages may be arranged hierarchically because a Package may be embedded within a higher level Package (col. 11, lines 1-12, and figure 3A), Van Huben does not show any inheritance relationships between the embedded Package and the higher level Package

In addition, it is further respectfully submitted that Sim does not disclose the deficiencies of Van Huben.

In view of the above comments, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1, as amended, is neither anticipated by, nor obvious in view of the cited references, and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested.

Claim 25

Claim 25 has been similarly amended to more clearly define the embodiment therein. For similar reasons as provided above with respect to Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 25, as amended, is also neither anticipated by, nor obvious in view of the cited references, and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 4-8, 26-30, and 32-37

Dependent Claims 2, 4-8, 26-30, and 32-37 are not addressed separately, but it is respectfully submitted that these claims are allowable as depending from an allowable independent claim and further in view of the additional limitations of these claims. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2, 4-8, 26-30, and 32-37 are similarly neither anticipated by, nor obvious in view of, the cited references, and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested. It is also respectfully submitted that these claims also add their own limitations which render them patentable in their own right. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to argue these limitations should it become necessary in the future.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the

claims now pending in the subject patent application should be allowable, and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested. The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned if he can assist in any way in expediting issuance of a patent.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1325 for any matter in connection with this reply, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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